

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2587

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6906

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNSC KS US

SUBJECT: US REPORT ON UNC ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 207546

1. EMBASSY AGREES WITH DEPT. PROPOSAL TO SUBMIT UNC REPORT TO UNSC. AS SUGGESTED BY DEPARTMENT, REPORT SHOULD BE DRAFTED TO ILLUSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF ARMISTICE ROLE WHICH IS NOW BEING PERFORMED BY UNC AND TO EMPHASIZE THE NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING THIS ARMISTICE MECHANISM IF UNC TERMINATED.

2. WE BELIEVE REPORT SHOULD CONSIST OF BRIEF, FACTUAL DESCRIPTION OF UNC ARMISTICE RELATED STRUCTURE, FUNCTIONS AND PROCEDURES. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF LOCATION AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY OF UNC IDENTIFIED UNITS (REFTEL) WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST SINCE THIS COULD LEAD TO DEBATE ON UNC ROLE IN WHICH WE WOULD BE ON DEFENSIVE. (E.G. SOME UN MEMBERS MIGHT QUESTION WHY UNC AND UN FLAG LOCATED IN AREAS OTHER THAN PANMUNJOM).

3. WE AGREE THAT REPORT SHOULD NOT INCLUDE CATALOGUE OF NORTH KOREAN VIOLATIONS. HOWEVER, WE THINK THAT ALONG WITH DESCRIPTION OF MAC MACHINERY A BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF
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THE PAST YEAR'S MAC ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING MAJOR

INCIDENTS AND CHARGES RESULTING IN MAC MEETINGS, WOULD SERVE TO ILLUSTRATE CONTINUING IMPORTANCE OF ARMISTICE MECHANISM. WE COULD ALSO POINT OUT THAT FOR WHATEVER THEIR REASONS THE KPA/CPV CONTINUE TO UTILIZE THE MAC AND IN FACT CALL THE MAJORITY OF MAC MEETINGS. A MORE DETAILED REPORT OF MAC ACTIVITIES AND NORTH KOREAN VIOLATIONS COULD BE DRAFTED SEPARATELY AS SUGGESTED.

4. THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN CONTENT FROM PAST REPORTS WILL BE OBVIOUS AND MIGHT DRAW CRITICISM THAT THIS YEAR'S REPORT TO UNSC IS BEING MANIPULATED BY THE U.S. FOR POLITICAL ENDS. HOWEVER, U.S. PROPOSAL TO TERMINATE UNC IF ARMISTICE IS MAINTAINED CREATES A NEW SITUATION WHICH SHOULD PROVIDE OBVIOUS JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGES IN REPORT. WE BELIEVE THAT IF NECESSARY THIS POINT BEST BE MADE BY USUN RATHER THAN BE ADDRESSED IN REPORT ITSELF. REPORT WOULD SHOW RELATIONSHIP TO NEW SITUATION BY OUTLINING STEPS TAKEN TO REDUCE UNC MANIFESTATIONS IN CONTEXT OF U.S. PROPOSAL TO UNSC.
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